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July 17, 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR THE WORKING GROUP (STALIN)

SUBJECT: WGS Meeting, Tuesday, July 21, 2:30 p.m.

As agreed at our last meeting, please remember to bring to our next meeting every piece of important information and every constructive proposal relating to the Soviet nationality vulnerability. The *Pravda* editorial on this subject a day or two after the Beria incident strikes me as expressing acute concern on this front. I have been told that efforts to get something really going on nationality exploitation have been stymied by some real or fancied roadblock. I think we should inquire very earnestly whether such a roadblock really exists, and if so, whether we should recommend changes.

With regard to the post-Beria situation in the Kremlin, the prevailing opinion here seems to be that we know too little to do anything constructive and that our destructive capabilities would hit our friends not our enemies. I think we ought to dig as hard as we can for further evidence on this problem.

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Acting Director.

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